

**ABSTRACT**

A system and method for controlling the scaling of a 3D computer model in a 3D display system include activating a zoom mode, selecting a model zoom point and setting a zoom scale factor are presented. In exemplary embodiments according to the present invention, a system, in response to the selected model zoom point and the set scale factor, can implements a zoom operation and automatically move a model zoom point from its original position towards an optimum viewing point. In exemplary embodiments according to the present invention, upon a user's activating a zoom mode, selecting a model zoom point and setting a zoom scale factor, a system can simultaneously move a model zoom point to an optimum viewing point. In preferred exemplary embodiments according to the present invention, a system can automatically identify a model zoom point by applying defined rules to visible points of a displayed model that lie in a central viewing area. If no such visible points are available the system can prompt a user to move the model until such points become available, or can select a model and a zoom point on that model by an automatic scheme.